

**To:** Daguillard, Robert[Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]  
**From:** Palmer, Brian  
**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 2:47:55 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Gold King Mine inquiry

Hi Robert,

Thanks for your quick response. How much time do you need? I can always beg my editors for more time.

The big question is: How do you inspect a mine? Do you just walk in with a flashlight and look for cracks?

I realize that's pretty broad, so here are some sub-questions:

- 1) What sort of preparatory work is done in advance of a mine inspection?
- 2) What are the tools of the mine inspection trade?
- 3) What exactly is a mine inspector looking for when he or she heads into a mine?
- 4) How long does a mine inspection take?
- 5) How many inspectors are involved in a typical inspection?
- 6) What role does the mine owner play?
- 7) How often do inspections occur?
- 8) What's the pass/fail rate?
- 9) Are we getting better at inspecting mines? (I've done some Google Books research, and there are articles from the 19th century complaining about how our mine inspection system is <sup>3</sup>entirely inadequate.<sup>2</sup> So this seems to be a long-running controversy.)

There will be some others depending on where the conversation goes.

Thanks again for your help.

Brian

On 8/17/15, 10:38 AM, "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

>Hullo Brian,  
>  
>We'd be happy to help, but we may very well not be able to meet your  
>deadline, based on the sheer number of inquiries we still have to respond  
>to in the wake of the Gold King Mine spill. Perhaps we will, but I just  
>wouldn't work on that assumption. I mean, we had people posting  
>statements at 2:30 AM last Wednesday.  
>  
>Is there any way you could extend your deadline?  
>  
>In the meantime - and just to help determine who to send your query to,  
>as routing is a BIG part of our response process - would you send me a  
>list of questions? That would be a huge help.  
>  
>Let me know. Give me a buzz if you want to discuss. Again, we're happy to  
>help, but it may take a little while.  
>

>Thanks, R.  
>  
>  
>  
>-----Original Message-----  
>From: Palmer, Brian [mailto:[bpalmer@nrdc.org](mailto:bpalmer@nrdc.org)]  
>Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 10:19 AM  
>To: Press  
>Subject: Gold King Mine inquiry  
>  
>Hello,  
>  
>I'm a journalist with onEarth magazine, a publication of the Natural  
>Resources Defense Council. I'd like to write an explanatory piece on a  
>basic question: How do government mine inspectors do their jobs? In all  
>the coverage of the Gold King Mine incident, I don't feel this has been  
>adequately addressed.  
>  
>Is there someone at EPA available to talk me through this basic process?  
>I'm on a deadline of tomorrow (Tuesday) at 2 pm Eastern time. You can  
>reach me at this email or at 212-727-4643.  
>  
>Thanks very much for your help.  
>  
>Brian